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Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Argentina, Bulgaria, Canada, Congo, Greece, Guinea, Iceland, Indonesia, Italy, Latvia, Mexico, Portugal, Russian Federation, Samoa, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The General Assembly,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1] in which Heads of State and Government resolved to strengthen further cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in all fields of the work of the United Nations,

Recalling also its resolution 57/32 of 19 November 2002, in which the Inter-Parliamentary Union was invited to participate in the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer, and recalling further its resolution 70/298 of 25 July 2016, in which the Assembly, inter alia, decided to strengthen the modalities of the cooperation between United Nations entities and the global parliamentary community,

Taking into consideration the Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union of 1996,[2] which laid the foundation for cooperation between the two organizations, and taking note of the revised Cooperation Agreement of 2016,

Taking note of the resolutions adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in particular the resolution entitled "Sharing our diversity: the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy", adopted at the 137th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 14 to 18 October 2017, and the many activities undertaken by that organization in support of the United Nations,

[1] Resolution 60/1.
[2] A/51/402, annex.

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Noting the outcomes of the World Conferences of Speakers of Parliament held in 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015, which affirm the commitment of national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to support the work of the United Nations and continue efforts to bridge the democracy gap in international relations,

Welcoming the annual parliamentary hearings at the United Nations, as well as other specialized parliamentary meetings organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in cooperation with the United Nations to correspond to major United Nations conferences and events,

Recognizing the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in mobilizing parliamentary action towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030[4] and the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[5]

Recognizing also the growing role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs in providing a platform for regular interaction between parliamentarians and United Nations officials, including on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, reviewing implementation of international commitments, facilitating closer ties between the United Nations country teams and national parliaments and helping to shape parliamentary input to major United Nations processes,

Recognizing further the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the areas of democracy and human rights, gender equality, the empowerment of women, combating violence against women, including against women in politics, youth empowerment, peace and security, disarmament, non-proliferation, sustainable development and interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue, as well as countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism,

Taking note of the work carried out upon the request of Member States by agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme, in support of national parliaments around the world,

Acknowledging the role and responsibility of national parliaments in regard to national plans and strategies, as well as in ensuring greater transparency and accountability at both the national and the global levels,

1. *Welcomes* the actions taken by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to pursue a more systematic engagement with the United Nations, and encourages both organizations to enhance their cooperation in meeting their common objectives;

2. *Encourages* the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to continue to work closely in various fields, including sustainable development, peacebuilding and sustaining peace, international law, human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, youth empowerment, democracy and good governance, information and communications technologies, disaster risk reduction, capacity-building and financing for development;

3. *Also encourages* the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to strengthen cooperation by engaging parliamentarians in efforts to maintain support for the implementation of relevant United Nations agreements;

4. *Encourages* the continued active involvement of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in promoting the enhanced contribution of parliaments at the national, regional

[3] Resolution 70/1.

[4] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

[5] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

and global levels in support of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

5. *Welcomes* the practice of including parliamentarians as members of national delegations to major United Nations meetings and events, as appropriate, and invites Member States to continue this practice in a more regular and systematic manner;

6. *Invites* Member States to further consider ways to work regularly with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in facilitating a parliamentary component to major United Nations conferences so as to help to inform such deliberations from a parliamentary perspective;

7. *Encourages* Member States to consider applying the practice of the joint United Nations-Inter-Parliamentary Union parliamentary hearing to other parliamentary meetings convened in conjunction with major United Nations conferences and processes, such as the parliamentary meeting organized on the occasion of the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women, with a view to including the outcome of these parliamentary meetings as a formal contribution to the respective United Nations processes;

8. *Welcomes* the enhanced contribution of parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the work of the Human Rights Council and the human rights treaty bodies, and acknowledges the crucial role that parliaments play in translating international commitments into national policies and laws;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system to work closely with national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union in accordance with their respective mandates and, upon request, in such areas as gender equality and the empowerment of women, including in conflict prevention and peace processes, institutional gender mainstreaming, support to parliaments in promoting gender-sensitive legislation, increasing the representation of women in parliaments, combating violence against women, including women in politics, and implementing relevant United Nations resolutions;

10. *Encourages* the relevant entities of the United Nations system to work closely with national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, inter alia, in areas such as youth empowerment and participation of young men and women in politics, as appropriate, rapid technological change, as well as countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism;

11. *Welcomes* the contribution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, through the participation of parliamentarians, in convening a regular parliamentary side event on the work of parliaments to institutionalize the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as through its efforts to encourage parliaments to engage in the voluntary national reviews of participating countries;

12. *Also welcomes* the efforts of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to raise parliamentary support for health, in particular women's, adolescent and child health and nutrition, and invites the World Health Organization and other relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to enhance cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in this regard;

13. *Invites* the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to continue and enhance their cooperation in supporting Governments in facilitating the orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies, and recognizes the contribution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

in the preparatory process for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration;

14. *Encourages* the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to develop closer cooperation with parliaments at the national level, including in terms of strengthening parliamentary capacities, inter alia, in regard to the allocation of budgetary resources for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] as appropriate, and in reinforcing the rule of law and helping to align national legislation with international commitments;

15. *Takes note* of the Common Principles for Support to Parliaments pioneered by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Development Programme and endorsed by 96 national parliaments and 5 parliamentary assemblies with a view to further strengthening the capacity of parliaments to perform their functions;

16. *Calls upon* United Nations country teams to develop, within their mandates and at the request of national authorities, a more structured and integrated manner of working with national parliaments, through appropriate mechanisms, inter alia, by involving parliaments in consultations on national development strategies and on development aid effectiveness, where applicable;

17. *Encourages* the United Nations system to help to facilitate greater South-South and triangular cooperation between parliaments and parliamentarians, within existing resources, in cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union;

18. *Calls upon* United Nations entities to avail themselves more systematically of the unique expertise of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and its member parliaments in strengthening parliamentary institutions, particularly in countries emerging from conflict and/or in transition to democracy;

19. *Calls for* regular annual exchanges and meetings at both the political and the operational levels between senior officials of the United Nations and of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, with a view to building greater coherence in the work of the two organizations and helping to forge a more robust strategic partnership between them;

20. *Encourages* the United Nations system to reflect more systematically the role and contribution of parliaments in its reports and draft strategic plans;

21. *Decides*, with effect from its seventy-second session, to observe on 30 June of each year the International Day of Parliamentarism, invites all Member States, national parliaments, organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and all other relevant stakeholders to observe the Day and to promote awareness of it, and stresses that the cost of all activities that may arise from the observance of the Day by the United Nations should be met from voluntary contributions;

22. *Acknowledges* the invitation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union to organize a world conference on interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue with the participation of Heads of State, parliaments and representatives of world religions, and encourages the conduct of preparations in cooperation with the United Nations;

23. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[6] and requests that he submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report under the item entitled "Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union", with a special focus on best practices to support the role of parliaments in translating international commitments into national policies.

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[6] A/72/791.